

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting survival of mammalian peripheral neural cells in vitro, wherein said cells express an OP/BMP-activated serine/threonine kinase receptor and a GDNF- or NGF-activated tyrosine kinase receptor, comprising:
contacting said neural cells with an effective concentration of a preparation comprising
 - (a) an OP/BMP morphogen having an amino acid sequence having at least 70% homology or 60% identity with the C-terminal seven cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone, and
 - (b) a GDNF neurotrophic factor or a NGF neurotrophic factor selected from GDNF, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, NT-5 or NT-6,wherein said OP/BMP morphogen and said GDNF neurotrophic factor or NGF neurotrophic factor act synergistically to promote survival of mammalian neural cells.
- 2.-10. (Cancelled)
11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said neural cells comprise neurons or neurological cells.
- 12.-14. (Cancelled)
15. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80% homology with the C-terminal seven-cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, and wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone.
16. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 90% homology with the C-terminal seven-cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, and wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone.
17. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen comprises an amino acid sequence at least 70% identical to the C-terminal seven-cysteine skeleton of human OP-1.
18. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen is selected from OP-1, OP-2, OP-3, BMP2, BMP3, BMP4, BMP5, BMP6 or BMP9.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said effective concentration of the preparation is between 0.1 ng/ml and 10 µg/ml of said OP/BMP morphogen and between 0.1 ng/ml and 10 µg/ml of said GDNF neurotrophic factor or said NGF neurotrophic factor.
20. (Original) A method as in claim 19 wherein, said effective concentration is between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said OP/BMP morphogen.
21. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 19, wherein said effective concentration is between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said GDNF neurotrophic factor or said NGF neurotrophic factor.
22. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 19, wherein said effective concentration is between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said OP/BMP morphogen and between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said GDNF neurotrophic factor or said NGF neurotrophic factor.
23. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said GDNF neurotrophic factor comprises GDNF.
- 24.-32. (Cancelled)